

Binkerd, A. D. (1869)
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THE EARTHQUAKE OF 1812

Mr. J. Gatewood, a native of the county, and an employee in the saltpetre mines, frequently stated during his lifetime, within the hearing of Mr. A. L. Mallory, my informant, that he was in the cave with a number of other workman, during the occurrence of the earthquake that formed the lake in the lowland known as the "Kentucky Purchase", in the southwestern part of the State, bordering on the Ohio. The tremulous motion of the earth filled the miners with alarm, and they fled in the wildest confusion towards the entrance, which they did not reach until long after the danger was past, when they stepped forth with thankful hearts from what they feared might prove their supulcher. Fortunately no one was hurt, nor were the mining operations interfered with. Since the cave has proved a safe retreat during a violent earthquake, it is hardly probable that it could be unsafe at other times. No accident or loss of life has yet occurred in the cave, from carelessness or foul play, within the memory of the reverend being - the oldest inhabitant.

Comment

It is assumed that the earthquake effects described in this article are those of the January 23, 1812 event, since this is the only major event that occurred during a time when mine operations would have been in progress.